



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

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Contact: Stephanie Lundberg
Phone: 202-225-5506

Kind Pushes to Reduce Deer-Vehicle Collisions

Transportation Bill Authorizes Study Aimed at Reducing Animal Related Crashes

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) highlighted the importance of a provision in the House-passed Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) HR 3 aimed at reducing the number of highway wildlife related car accidents, particularly those involving deer. The bill authorizes a comprehensive study to explore practical, affordable countermeasures to address this growing problem.

“The number of deer-vehicle crashes on rural highways is a big concern in the state of Wisconsin and across the nation. The frequency of these collisions has risen at the same time we’re seeing annual increases in the deer population. As Vice Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, I recognize that deer hunters have a potential role to play in combating this problem, and believe that deer management should be a key component to an effective remedial strategy,” stated Rep. Kind.

In 2003, there were 21,666 reported deer-vehicle crashes in the state of Wisconsin, resulting in more than 792 human injuries, 13 fatalities, and an estimated \$36.5 million in economic damages. Statewide, the percentage of animal related crashes has more than tripled from 5.0% to 16.5% percent between 1978 and 2003 and is even higher in rural areas. [Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center www.deercrash.com; Wisconsin Department of Transportation]

Kevin McAleese, Program Director of the Sand County Foundation, a wildlife conservation organization that has partnered in the past with the Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources to address this issue, sees the study as an opportunity to demonstrate that hunters and landowners can be a part of the solution. “Initial studies in South Carolina show that targeted hunting can lower the frequency of deer on the road. If hunters take the lead in reducing deer-vehicle crashes and saving lives and property, it becomes another demonstration of the social value of sport hunting.” McAleese added that the University of Wisconsin – Madison is already the leading source of information about deer-vehicle crashes.